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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ALLOCATING SERVER OUTPUT BANDWIDTH**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A server computer handles multiple data flows between itself and other devices. The server has one or more applications that allocate bandwidth to respective flows and a network protocol stack that implements those allocations. When bandwidth allocations are made in accordance with a bandwidth allocation policy, the protocol stack in the network server enforces the policy. The network protocol stack provides a programming interface that allows the application to specify the bandwidth allocation for a flow. The network protocol stack then enforces this allocation unless there is no shortage of available bandwidth.

27 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets